

Mr. WU. Madam Chairman, I am aware of Representative MATHESON's concerns about technology infusion to small manufacturers. There is study by the National Academy of Public Administration that established the critical need for small manufacturers to have better access to changing technology, production techniques, and business management practices. This study also recommended the improving technology transfer and infusion to small and medium-sized manufacturers. The Committee supports the rapid integration of new technologies and innovations into the manufacturing industry. This integration will help small-to-medium sized manufacturers stay competitive in the global economy while promoting American innovation and preserving American jobs. Language in the bill will facilitate these goals.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1868, The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007. H.R. 1868 authorizes appropriations for scientific and technical research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, strengthens and improves the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) initiative, and establishes the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) to assist U.S. businesses and institutions of higher education to accelerate development and application of challenging, high-risk technologies that promise widespread economic benefits.

H.R. 1868 authorizes \$365 million for MEP, a highly successful program that helps small and medium domestic manufacturers compete more effectively in the international marketplace. The goal of MEP is not only to maintain current manufacturing jobs, but also to nurture growth in the manufacturing sector to create additional jobs for American workers. The bill provides for an 8 percent increase per year in MEP appropriations, which would double program funding in 10 years.

The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007 also amends the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to establish an MEP board. The current national MEP board is established by the Secretary of Commerce, and has been woefully neglected for 3 years, not meeting at all in 2005 and 2006. NIST recently reconstituted the board, but most members are now from academia, not industry. H.R. 1868 would establish the MEP advisory board in statute, rather than at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce, and would require majority representation from industry.

My district and others across the country will benefit from funding research at National Institutes of Standards and Technology, strengthening the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and establishing the Technology Innovation Program, and I am pleased to be able to support it.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, H.R. 1868. This important legislation is part of an ambitious initiative that will fulfill the Innovation Agenda.

I am proud of my efforts to help craft the Innovation Agenda, which will help provide for future prosperity through wise investments. H.R. 1868 is an integral part of this effort and will help meet the Agenda's call to double funding over the next 10 years for the National

Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. NIST exists to improve our Nation's economic security and quality of life through the improvement of technology and related sciences and standards. This legislation puts us well on the path to doubling our investment in NIST by setting the appropriate authorization levels through 2010. This will mean actual authorizations of \$470.9 million in FY 2008 and \$537.6 million in FY 2010. These increases are necessary investments in revitalizing NIST's staffing, activity, and physical infrastructure, particularly at a time when we face unprecedented levels of international competition.

In this bill, the Technology Innovation Program (TIP) is created. TIP gives businesses and universities grants that encourage high-risk investments in technology, in cases where such investments have potential widespread economic benefits. This is a sound use of taxpayer money, as projected economic payoff to society is a necessary precondition for issuance of a grant. This program helps to solve the failure of market forces to encourage full investment in research and development. This failure of market forces is rooted in the fact that only one third of the financial reward of research and development investment is felt by investors, with the rest being felt by society as a whole.

H.R. 1868 also improves the competitiveness of the American manufacturing industry by creating postdoctoral fellowships for related research, and by creating a manufacturing research pilot grants program for interdisciplinary collaborations between businesses, State governments, nonprofits, and universities.

By strengthening our existing investment in our national technology and manufacturing capacity and through the creation of new related programs, this bill is a crucial element of the Innovation Agenda to maintain American economic security and global leadership. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I am pleased to support H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which reauthorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST has not been completely reauthorized since 1992, yet it is the lead federal agency in much cutting-edge technology, such as semiconductor research and nanotechnology.

NIST is particularly important to me because one of its key laboratories is located in Boulder, Colorado, in my district. The Boulder labs employ more than 350 people and serve as a science and engineering center for significant research across the nation.

A critical component of this legislation is that it includes funding for construction at these laboratories. NIST's Boulder facilities have contributed to great scientific advances, but they are now over 50 years old and have not been well maintained. Many environmental factors such as the humidity and vibrations from traffic can affect the quality of research performed at NIST. In Fiscal Year 2007, NIST-Boulder will begin an extension of Building 1 to make room for a Precision Metrology lab. This new facility will allow for incredibly precise control of temperature, relative humidity, air filtration and vibration to advance research on critical technologies, such as atomic clocks

telecommunications, and nanomaterials. To complete this extension, NIST will need further funding in Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009. H.R. 1868 authorizes this critical funding.

The legislation also includes a needed funding increase for overall laboratory research at NIST. As part of the American Competitiveness initiative, NIST will use these funds to expand upon its world-class research, ensuring that the United States will continue to be globally competitive in many industries.

I am also Pleased to see that the legislation reauthorizes and gradually increases funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. The MEP program has a network of centers across the nation to help small and medium-sized manufacturers develop and commercialize their research. Minimal Federal investment has yielded substantial benefits to manufacturers across the country.

In Colorado, the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT) hosts the Colorado MEP (CMEP) program and has helped Colorado's more than 6,000 manufacturers save millions of dollars. Over the last 6 years, CMEP has decreased costs for Colorado manufacturers by almost \$17 million and increased sales by more than \$4 million—so I believe that this is a program that we must continue to support.

This legislation also replaces the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) with the Technology Innovation Program (TIP). The ATP has been a valuable resource to small manufacturers by funding technology development. The TIP will build upon and improve this program to help small U.S. manufacturers remain competitive in the increasingly competitive global market.

I would like to thank Technology and Innovation Subcommittee Chairman WU and Ranking Member GINGREY, as well as Science and Technology Chairman GORDON, for introducing this critical legislation and working to bring it to the floor today.

In conclusion, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1868.

Mr. WU. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mrs. TAUSCHER). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1868

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Scientific and technical research and services.

Sec. 102. Industrial technology services.

TITLE II—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY REFORMS

Sec. 201. Institute-wide planning report.